

House Bill 1379

By: Representatives Kidd of the 115<sup>th</sup>, Willard of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, and Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 44-14-471 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to filing of verified statement, contents, and notice, so as to provide for notice of a hospital lien within 30 days after a person has been discharged from care; to provide for the filing of such lien within 15 days after such notice; to delete certain provisions relating to a physician's practice; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Code Section 44-14-471 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to filing of verified statement, contents, and notice, is amended by striking in its entirety subsection (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(a) In order to perfect the lien provided for in Code Section 44-14-470, the operator of the hospital, nursing home, physician practice, or provider of traumatic burn care medical practice:

(1) Within 30 days after the person has been discharged therefrom, shall ~~Shall, not less than 30 days prior to the date of filing the statement required under paragraph (2) of this subsection,~~ provide written notice to the patient and, to the best of the claimant's knowledge, the persons, firms, corporations, and their insurers claimed by the injured person or the legal representative of the injured person to be liable for damages arising from the injuries and shall include in such notice a statement that the lien is not a lien against the patient or any other property or assets of the patient and is not evidence of the patient's failure to pay a debt. Such notice shall be sent to all such persons and entities by first-class and certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, return receipt requested; and

(2) Shall file, no sooner than ~~30~~ 15 days after the date of the written notice provided for in this Code section, in the office of the clerk of the superior court of the county in which

1 the hospital, nursing home, physician practice, or provider of traumatic burn care medical  
2 practice is located and in the county wherein the patient resides, if a resident of this state,  
3 a verified statement setting forth the name and address of the patient as it appears on the  
4 records of the hospital, nursing home, physician practice, or provider of traumatic burn  
5 care medical practice; the name and location of the hospital, nursing home, physician  
6 practice, or provider of traumatic burn care medical practice and the name and address  
7 of the operator thereof; the dates of admission and discharge of the patient therefrom ~~or~~  
8 ~~with respect to a physician practice, the dates of treatment;~~ and the amount claimed to be  
9 due for the hospital, nursing home, physician practice, or provider of traumatic burn care  
10 medical practice care."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.